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USSR DEVELOPS NEW CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

STONE-CASTING INDUSTRY DEVELOPS -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 21 Mar 51

The Moscow Stone-Casting Plant No 1 produces stone slabs for use in furnace linings, extra-strong pipes, and various parts required for electric power stations and chemical plants. The slabs are made of basalt stone melted at a temperature of 1,350 degrees. They are extremely strong, durable, and acid proof.

Stone casting is still a new branch of industry. New methods of stone smelting and hardening are being developed to prevent breakage. Ways have been found to utilize waste products. These are now being ground to a powder, which serves as an excellent material for preparing fireproof plaster.

The products of the plant are in great demand. Until recently, the small size of the furnace did not permit an increase of its productivity. After reconstruction of the smelting installation, the furnace, which formerly had a productive capacity of 25 tons of cast stone, now produces 50 tons per 24-hour period. However, the output should be further increased. Workers of the plant have pledged to complete the first-quarter plan by 25 March.

Moscow, Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 6 Apr 51

Construction of a new stone-casting plant has begun near Moscow. The new enterprise is to produce more than 20,000 square meters of cast stone slabs of various sizes, with smooth or embossed surfaces. In addition, it is planned to produce large architectural parts, including columns, capitals, socles, etc. These products can be made with the use of local raw materials, such as quartz sand, dolomites, chalk, and spar. Cast-stone tiles and architectural parts will be used for facing one of the tall buildings in Moscow.

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NEW TYPES OF BRICK FOUND SATISFACTORY -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 22 Feb 51

The Institute of Refractories and Construction Materials, Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, has done much research in 1950 to determine the possibilities of producing hollow construction ceramics from loess-type loam. The experiments have been successful. In cooperation with Alma-Ata Brick Plant No 3, scientific workers of the institute produced several hundred thousand porous bricks and subjected them to industrial tests.

The new type of brick is very strong and light. Compared with ordinary bricks, it has a lower heat conductivity. These properties of porous bricks make it possible to reduce the thickness of walls. For example, in place of 2.5 ordinary bricks one can use two porous bricks. The porosity of bricks increases the strength of the walls, which is an important factor in seismic regions.

Alma-Ata Brick Plant No 3 has begun mass production of this construction material, which is a new industrial product in Kazakhstan.

Yerevan, Kommunist, 20 Mar 51

Engineers of the Ministry of Construction-Materials Industry Armenian SSR and the Yerevan Tile and Brick Plant have developed a method of producing a new type of high-quality brick. The new method involves the use of pumice as a brick ingredient, as a result of which the drying period has been reduced three or four times. The brick quality has improved considerably and the length of brick firing has been reduced 33 percent.

The new type of brick is being produced at the Yerevan Tile and Brick Plant and production will soon be organized at the Leninakan Refractories Plant and the Kirovakan Tile and Brick Plant.

SCIENTISTS DEVELOP INSULATING MATERIAL FOR PARTITIONS -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 19 Mar 51

Scientific workers of the Institute of Construction Technology, Academy of Architecture USSR, have developed a new material for construction of light partitions, called "strunopenosilikat" [a type of silicate fiberboard]. This material is very light. The panels are 8 centimeters thick, 3.2 meters high, and 50 centimeters wide. They are used for partitions between rooms. Two plasterers can put up 45-50 square meters of these partitions in one shift.

The new material is highly soundproof and has high heat-insulating efficiency. For example, if the temperature on one side of the partition were 800 degrees, the temperature on the other side will only go up to 40 degrees. The panels are easy to nail, drill, and saw. The use of this material will improve the quality of tall buildings and will shorten building periods.

TURKMEN SSR PRODUCES NEW ROOFING MATERIAL -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 6 Mar 51

The "Novostroymaterialy" (New Construction Materials) Plant in Tashkent has begun production of "bemit," a new improved roofing material, which is suited to a hot climate and is not affected by sudden changes of temperature. The first batch of the new roofing material has been sent to the builders of the large "Yangi turmysh" Kolkhoz settlement, Kirghiz-Chirchikskiy Rayon, Tashkent Oblast.

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NEW TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION GLASS DEVELOPED -- Riga, Cina, 15 Mar 51

The All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Glass has developed a new type of high-grade building material, called "marblit." Marblit sheets can be used in the facing of apartment buildings, subway stations, and store buildings, as well as inside finishing of lobbies, laboratories, etc.

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR has decided to organize mass production of marblit glass at the Chagoda Plant in Vologda Oblast. The Leningrad "Reduktor" Plant is building a special machine which is to produce about 250,000 square meters of marblit sheets per year.

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